

French farmers descend on Paris

PARIS (R) — Some 150,000 French farmers descended on Paris Sunday, handing out free wine, cheese and sausage in a colourful and largely peaceful protest against falling incomes and a flood of imports from Eastern Europe. Supported by the centre-right opposition, the farmers urged the Socialist government to restructure European Community (EC) reforms which they said were forcing many of them off the land. "There are more than 150,000 of today. If we can't get anywhere with that number, then it's certain death for farmers," said Alain Lehaque, one of 5,000 Breton dairy farmers who travelled into the capital in a convoy of buses. Agriculture Minister Louis Meigniez said on television he would ask the EC for permission to increase subsidies to cattle breeders, hit particularly hard by East European competition. He said the protest would strengthen his hand in negotiations with EC partners over reform of the community's controversial agricultural policy. Fearing a repetition of the violence that has scared rural France in the last few weeks, the government deployed some 10,000 police on the streets of the capital. Conservative leader Jacques Chirac had to dodge a bottle and several dozen cans hurled by protesters who accused right-wing parties of exploiting the farmers' plight for political gain.

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Iraq ready to export oil, but no decision on U.N. terms

BAGHDAD (R) — Oil Minister Usama Al Hit said Sunday Iraq was ready to resume oil exports but gave no indication if it would accept U.N. conditions on such sales. Mr. Hit was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as confirming that Iraq was "ready to resume the exportation of oil and restore its commercial relations with its previous clients and restore its role in the international oil market." But he criticised U.N. resolutions which would not allow Baghdad direct access to the proceeds from the sales as an infringement of Iraq's sovereignty. The U.N. has approved the sale of \$1.6 billion worth of oil to allow Iraq to buy badly-needed food and medicines. But part of the proceeds will go to Iraq after war reparations and U.N. costs are deducted, and that money will be placed in an account under U.N. control. The U.N. also says it must monitor the distribution of food bought with the proceeds of the oil sale.

Pollsario: Marchers threaten Sahara plan

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario Front guerrilla movement has accused Morocco of threatening the Western Sahara peace plan by sending 30,000 of its citizens into the disputed former Spanish colony. Polisario, fighting for independence in its self-styled Saharan Arab democratic republic, said the Moroccans had crossed the northern border of the territory between Sept. 23 and 28 and were heading for the town of Laayoune. The Moroccan government was "jeopardising the peace plan by unleashing thousands of Moroccan marchers on Saharan towns," it said in a statement issued in Algiers. The people of the thinly-populated territory are to choose between independence, as demanded by Polisario, or union with Morocco, which controls most of the disputed area, in a referendum in January. Three weeks ago, the two sides agreed a ceasefire in the territory after 15 years of fighting.

Wolf ranks British as best spies

BONN (R) — Legendary East German spymaster Markus Wolf, jailed by unified Germany, ranked Britain's spies as the best among his former Western espionage foes, according to a magazine interview released Sunday. But Bonn's espionage efforts got poor marks from Mr. Wolf, whose agents ridged the West German political and defence establishment until their cover was blown by German unity last October. "Maybe the English were the best, these James Bonds, because they were the ones I knew the least about."

Savimbi arrives in Luanda

LUANDA (R) — Jonas Savimbi, leader of Angola's former rebel UNITA movement, returned to Luanda Sunday for the first time since the end of a 16-year civil war. Thousands of followers gave the charismatic guerrilla chief a tumultuous welcome as he arrived in the capital three months after a peace settlement. Mr. Savimbi reached Luanda airport Sunday morning after a tour of three southern cities — Huambo, Lubango and Lobito — where hundreds of thousands of people also turned out to greet him.

Algeria devalues dinar

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria Sunday announced a 22 per cent devaluation of the dinar from Sept. 30. The Algerian (central) Bank also announced it had raised inter-bank rates for loans to commercial banks by one percentage point to 11.5 per cent from October 1. The exchange rate before the announcement stood at 17.32 dinars to the dollar. The statement did not say what the new exchange rate would be. Algeria faces a debt crunch. It owes a total of \$2.5 billion, three quarters of it due by the end of 1993. Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali has said the debt is disastrous. The debt service ratio has risen to 69 per cent from 18 per cent in 1988.

Arafat says PNC has contributed positively, urges Arab coordination

Baker: Time not ripe yet for invitations to conference

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat Sunday described the decision of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to recommend Palestinian participation in the proposed Middle East peace conference as a positive contribution to the cause of the peace in the region. He also called for close coordination among the Arabs ahead of further moves prior to the proposed conference, which is scheduled to be held in October.

Mr. Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said in an interview with Radio Jordan that Jordan and the PLO were coordinating their positions. He said the PLO was also keen on coordinating its positions with Egypt, Syria and Lebanon as well as all other Arab countries. "whether in the Gulf or in the Arab Maghreb (North Africa)."

"The Palestinians alone cannot confront the challenges without coordination with their Arab brethren if a comprehensive solution is to be found for the Palestini-

nian problem," said Mr. Arafat, speaking one day after the PNC recommended that Palestinians attend the October conference, co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

"Any solution to the Palestinian problem should take into consideration the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and the interests and national security of the Arab nation," added Mr. Arafat, who was reelected president of Palestine and chairman of the PLO by the PNC session in Algiers.

Mr. Arafat said the priority for the PLO was to coordinate positions with the Arab countries before coordinating with the United States.

The Palestinian leader also called for an urgent Arab summit conference to "coordinate Arab positions, learning from past experiences so that the Arab World can confront the challenges facing it."

The PNC decision to endorse Palestinian participation in the peace conference, Mr. Arafat said, "gives a new momentum to the Palestinian uprising, which is the guarantee for a just peace."

(Continued on page 5)

He said the PLO had stressed the importance of Jerusalem and its status as the capital of the State of Palestine and renewed a call for a freeze in Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories.

The Israeli policy of building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Mr. Arafat said, "poses a danger not only to the Palestinian people but also to the entire Arab World."

In Algiers, Mr. Arafat said Saturday that "we want a peace of the brave, not capitulations. We will not make any obstacles to peace, but we reject the Israeli conditions."

Israel demands that no PLO members, and only Palestinians from the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip take part in peace talks. It also insists that the PLO cannot announce the delegation.

"We are not asking for the moon," Mr. Arafat said. "We are asking for what has been declared by (U.S. President George) Bush and (National Security Adviser Brent) Scowcroft," whom he quoted as saying Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal.

(Continued on page 5)

"If they continue, this means there will be no land for peace," said the PLO leader.

"This question is not for me," Mr. Arafat said. "You have to ask Presidents Bush and (Mikhail) Gorbachev, the conference's co-chairmen. Do you want land for peace?"

Prime Minister Taher Masri said Saturday the PNC decision paved the way for forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

"Now we expect that some Palestinian delegates will visit Jordan soon... and we will work together on forming a joint delegation to the proposed peace conference," he said.

The PNC dropped key conditions for participating in the proposed conference, recommending that Palestinians attend in order to argue their case.

Palestinian legislators also dropped demands for a commitment before the talks that Israel would relinquish the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The council cast aside an insistence that the PLO actually



MILITARY EXERCISES: One of the units of the Special Forces Sunday carried out military manoeuvres using live ammunition and many kinds of weapons, tanks and personnel carriers. The exercises were attended by Armed Forces

Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, who was briefed on the training programmes and level of expertise of the special forces by its commander. Senior officers of the Armed Forces also attended the exercises

U.N. teams report full Iraqi compliance with demands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A

U.N. nuclear weapon inspection team which spent four days confined in a Baghdad car park resumed its mission on Sunday

without incident.

Iraq has also removed the last obstacle preventing U.N. experts from using their helicopters on inspection flights, U.N. officials said in Baghdad.

Alastair Livingston, field operations chief for the U.N. commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said Iraq had given U.N. officials permission to use its Al Rasheed airfield in Baghdad as a helicopter base.

An advance party of ballistic missiles experts in Baghdad had asked leave for the helicopters, on loan from Germany and now in Turkey, to make the four-hour flight to Baghdad on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Douglas Englund, head of the 21-member ballistic team, said Saturday they were delaying the start of their mission to supervise

destruction of Scud missile sites by two days to give time for the lingering row to be settled.

Mr. Livingston said the Iraqi go-ahead, given at noon on Sunday, would let the U.N. advance party finalize details of helicopter flights planned by ballistic inspectors due in Baghdad on Tuesday.

"It was the first day that inspections by the 44-member group, which arrived in Baghdad a week ago, had not run into problems with Iraqi officials.

On Monday, it was held for five hours before documents it had seized were forcibly removed from its possession.

A similar confrontation began Tuesday and led to the group being penned in a car park refusing to yield the papers.

The standoff ended around

dawn Saturday with the group permitted to keep further records it had taken provided a joint inventory was made with Iraqi officials.

That inventory was completed

(Continued on page 5)

Kidnappers silent

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Sunday did not rule out compromise in proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks, but again refused to freeze settlement activity in the occupied territories.

He added that Israel would not participate in any peace talks that would force a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the Jewish state.

If the Arabs expect negotiations to be "a kind of court attended... to get what they deserve according to one or another United Nations decision, they are completely mistaken," Mr. Shamir said on a special interview with Israel army radio.

"Negotiations between peoples is where the sides have to sit together and convince one other, in order to reach an agreement on those same issues that are being discussed," Mr. Shamir added, while not ruling out an Israeli compromise.

"It depends what the compromise is. It depends what we are talking about," Mr. Shamir said.

The peace talks are to be based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338,

which call on Israel to give up land occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for secure borders.

Israel contends the resolution does not require it to give up all the land.

The United States has criticised a recent flurry of Jewish construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as an obstacle to proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks, asking Israel to halt the activity.

Mr. Shamir said Sunday freezing settlements before negotiations would be a "precondition" Israel firmly rejects.

"We have presented a principle. There are no negotiations with preconditions," Mr. Shamir said. "There are many demands we could make of the Arabs and we can bring them up during the negotiations. They, too, of course, can make demands of us, but these will be put on the negotiating table."

Meanwhile, Science Minister Yuval Neeman, of the nationalist Tehiya party, and Minister without Portfolio Rehavam Zeevi of the right-wing Moledet party met with Mr. Shamir to protest the peace process they say will force

Israel into undesirable concessions.

"The time has come for the government of Israel to take its head out of the sand," Mr. Neeman told Israel Radio. "No doubt the noise is getting tighter."

In separate comments, Mr. Shamir said he doubted the United States could play the role of honest broker in bringing Israel and its Arab neighbours to the peace conference next month.

Mr. Shamir's most senior aide Yossi Ben-Aharon went even further. He called Washington "prejudiced" since President George Bush called on Congress this month to postpone vital loan guarantees to Israel until after the proposed talks.

"There has been a tilt toward the Arabs, no doubt," Mr. Ben-Aharon told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Shamir said he believed a conference co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow would be held.

But asked by the newspaper Davar whether the United States could be an impartial mediator he

(Continued on page 5)

Likud weighs early election

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ruling Likud Party, under pressure from Washington and from Israelis, is discussing calling early elections — a move that could complicate Middle East peace efforts.

"I don't expect anything to move soon, but I expect progress," said Uri Lubrani in a telephone interview with the AP.

He denied a report that Austria was probably holding the bodies of two Israeli soldiers sought by Israel as part of a deal to secure the release of Western hostages.

Ahmad Jibril, the head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), said Sunday he agreed with Hizbullah that any hostage-for-prisoner swap must also include Palestinians held by Israel.

Another pro-Iranian source in Beirut hinted that a hostage release depends on Israel making the first move.

If he is to be a hostage release in hours, the source said: "The first thing we expect is an Israeli step. Then we'll see."

Israel's chief hostage negotiator said Sunday he expected progress on the hostage issue, but had no specific moves to report.

"I don't expect anything to move soon, but I expect progress," said Uri Lubrani in a telephone interview with the AP.

Government sources said Mr. Shamir might seek a mandate to stave off U.S. pressure for Israel to yield on peace issues.

He could also call elections if he lost the support of three hardline coalition parties which ensure him a 66-54 seat parliamentary majority.

Mr. Shamir's top adviser Yossi Ben-Aharon dampened press speculation about the government's imminent fall but acknowledged potential problems.

"There might be a break which will cause the dissolution of this government. But this is just an assessment at this point because we don't have any hard evidence that this is going to take place," he told Reuters.

The opposition Labour Party has called a parliamentary no-confidence vote for next week although it alone cannot bring down the government.

"I think there will be an opening conference lasting a day and a half, a photo opportunity. After

the photo opportunity there will be a crisis if they impose such constraints or a freeze on settlements."

The Bush administration has favoured a peace deal based on the return of occupied Arab land. Likud insists the land ensures Israeli "security" and was given to God.

The government source, reliable in forecasting previous political developments, said Mr. Shamir could call elections to strengthen his hand before negotiations get tough.

He said: "There is a feeling the negotiations will be very problematic and Israel will be pushed to the wall and so it's worthwhile to hold elections to strengthen Likud before it's too late."

Leaders of the far-right Tehiya, Tsomet and Moledet parties, whose seven seats assure Mr. Shamir a majority in the 120-member parliament, have told the government they are worried by the U.S. moves.

Mr. Shamir privately met Tehiya and Moledet leaders Sunday, and Moledet leader Rehavam Zeevi said he would not lead his two-man faction out of the government for now.

But many in Likud share the fears of the far right as talks enter a crucial stage. Washington will pressure Israel to withdraw from occupied territories.

The FLN was the sole legal party in Algeria before 1962.

The fundamentalist party's top leaders, including President Abassi Madani and Vice-President Ali Belhadj, were thrown into a military prison at Blida, outside Algiers.

They are charged with fomenting rebellion, which could theoretically bring the death penalty, and have been hospitalised after going on hunger strike Sept. 7.

The government says that 55 people were killed and 3,000 arrested during the state of emergency. The FLN and another group claim 300 died and a much higher number were arrested.

The government has pledged to hold the elections before the end of the year. They would be the first multi-party legislative voting since independence.

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The FLN was the sole legal party in Algeria before 1962.

Hrawi home with U.S. 'pledge' on Israeli presence

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi returned home Sunday after talks with President George Bush during which he won a pledge on implementation of a U.N. resolution calling for an Israeli pullout from South Lebanon, officials said.

Mr. Hrawi conferred with Mr. Bush, Arab and European officials during an eight-day visit to the United Nations in New York where he addressed the General Assembly.

Prime Minister Omar Karami, who accompanied Mr. Hrawi, told reporters the trip had achieved its goals and "was very successful."

The talks concentrated on implementing the 13-year-old Security Council Resolution 425 stipulating an unconditional and comprehensive pullout of Israeli troops from a border enclave it runs as a "security zone" in south Lebanon.

The Lebanese leader met Mr. Bush last Tuesday and urged him to guarantee an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Officials said Mr. Hrawi managed to obtain "a pledge" from the Bush administration that Resolution 425 was "unnegotiable" and should be implemented without linkage to the planned U.S.-brokered Middle East peace conference.

Lebanon has said it will attend the conference, which is expected to convene next month, but has been attempting to disengage itself.

West had nuclear arms ready during Gulf war — Swede

STOCKHOLM (R) — The U.S.-led alliance in the Gulf war had nuclear and chemical weapons prepared for use if provoked by Iraq, a Swedish liaison officer said in an interview published Friday.

Army Major Persson, liaison officer between a Swedish field hospital in Saudi Arabia and allied forces, told the national daily Svenska Dagbladet he had seen official guidelines about the use of nuclear weapons.

The document said allied warships without chemical weapons aboard were allowed, as a last resort, to defend themselves with nuclear weapons against a chemical attack, he said. "If exposed to the worst, they would be allowed to use the worst. There was such an order. I saw it," Maj. Persson said.

The alliance consistently declined to comment on whether it had nuclear or chemical weapons in place during the war to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

Maj. Persson said he had also seen a 200-page document regulating use of chemical weapons.

River crossing puts Palestinian dreams in perspective

By Sami Aboudi
Reuter

KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE — Five-year-old Walid and his twin sister Lubna imitated their mother. They took off their shoes, raised their arms and turned around ready to be searched.

The children, both ticklish, giggled as the Israeli woman soldier frisked them but could not understand why they had to hand over a ping pong ball.

"Why did they take away the ball?" Lubna asked.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Israel and its Arab neighbours may have given a filip to Palestinian dreams of their own homelands with their talk of convening a Middle East peace conference.

But at the River Jordan bridges, the Palestinians'

only direct link between their homes in the Israeli-occupied territories and the outside world, there are many poignant reminders that on the ground nothing has changed.

Crossing from the West Bank to Jordan requires weeks of requests — Palestinians under 35 need a special permit — and a 305 shekel (\$120) fee.

The return over the two bridges since the 1967 war means hours of humiliating searches.

What could be a 90-minute drive between occupied Jerusalem and Amman can take an entire day.

But for Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank amid a 45-month-old revolt, entering Jordan is like being released from a long prison sentence.

Amman may only be 40 kilometres away, but the

identity checks, sound of firearms and Israeli curfew announcements are quickly forgotten.

For three weeks in Jordan, my wife and four children enjoyed the forgotten pleasures of amusement parks, song festivals and eight strolls.

Thousands of Palestinians cross the rickety one-lane bridge every day to see relatives or for business under an Israeli agreement with Jordan known as the open-borders policy.

There is no search by Jordanian officials in the town of Shuna but travellers wait for more than two hours in humid heat to get passports stamped and find a seat on the bus that ferries them to the Israeli-held side.

The Israeli flags fluttering over military fortifications in

the blazing sun mark the return to life under occupation.

The bridge vibrates under the weight of the bus. On the Israeli side, its passengers disembark under a huge eucalyptus tree to hand over their return permits. Those without them may not enter.

Dozens of men and women Israeli conscripts search luggage piece by piece, looking for weapons, then take it to be assessed for import duty.

Pens, brushes, cameras and toys were among items we were not allowed to take in — one rarely gets an exemption.

A corridor leads into a hall where uniformed police prepare documents. The air-conditioned hall has toilets and running water but after three hours under Israeli scrutiny, the children were tired, hungry and bored.

Finally, our names were

called over loudspeakers and we started the physical searches.

We deposited our money in a locked box until we left, which lets the Israelis keep an eye on how much flows into the West Bank.

Those with more than JD 2,000 must sign a declaration that they did not receive it from the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israeli troops used to make people strip, but travellers now just lower their pants as an electronic device scans them.

Most young Palestinians are also questioned by Israeli secret service agents.

Exactly nine hours after leaving Amman — and after five and a half hours of Israeli checking — we finally strolled our belongings into the suitcases and were on our way home.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 33, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Balata supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate, changing gradually to easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.: Amman 18 / 34 Aqaba 24 / 37 Deserts 17 / 37 Jordan Valley 23 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures Amman 24 / 34 Aqaba 24 / 37 Deserts 17 / 37 Jordan Valley 23 / 37

ZARQA: Dr. Rabah Al Borini (—)

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Tel. 63785; Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785; St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590; Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62440; De Sode Church Tel. 661757; Tannourine Church Tel. 622366; Church of the Annunciation Tel.

Khalilieh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891225

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Fatic Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 630300

Police Complaints 631176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Oversize Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdul Telephone Repair 661101

Jordan Televised 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 603381

RJ Flight Information 06-53300

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53300

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 097983323

Zarqa National Hospital 097980560

Reh Site Hospital 093986732

Al Mihana Modern Hospital 099909900

HAJD: Princess Bassma Hospital 032273555

Greek Catholic Hospital 03227275

Rn Al Nafoes Hospital 02047100

Princess Hayya Hospital 03514111

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 81381352

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm 6442816

Al-Balad Maternity, J. Amm 642441/2

Mohas, J. Amm 624262

Palace Hospital 636140

Sheraton Hospital 6611714

University Hospital 634345

The Islamic, Abdal 66112737

Al-Abi, Abdal 6611646

Indian, Al-Muhajireen 7771013

Al-Basit, J. Astrafid 775111/26

Armen, Marca 697611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Al Mihana Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Louay 773111

Damascus (J) 773111

Rishon (J) 773111

Jordahl (J) 773111

Dhuham (J) 773111

Larnaca (J) 773111

Doha, Bahrain (J) 773111

Paris (J) 773111

Bangkok (J) 773111

Cairo (J) 773111

Istanbul (J) 773111

Calcutta (J) 773111

Caracas (J) 773111

London (J) 773111

Paris (J) 773111

Beijing (J) 773111

Tokyo (J) 773111

Seoul (J) 773111

Malaga (J) 773111

Barcelona (J) 773111

Moscow (J) 773111

Paris (J) 773111

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (MS)

14:05 Cairo (MS)

14:15 Doha, Bahrain (MS)

15:15 Paris (MS)

22:30 Tokyo (MS)



Malcolm Fraser
Security Council

The former prime minister

stepped down in question

whether he thought the

approved amount was

enough to meet the imme-

diate needs of the Iraqi peo-

ples in the related resolu-

tion.

Mr. Fraser said CARE was

extending relief aid to the

Shiites and Kurds who fled

their failed rebellions against

the government following the

CARE International official discusses prospects for further aid to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Possibilities are strong for international supplementation of Canadian assistance programmes to help Jordanian children, particularly in the wake of the return home of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf states, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Sunday.

Mr. Fraser, who discussed the issue with Her Royal Highness Princess Bassma — chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) — in his capacity as president of CARE International, said he would pursue the matter further with the donor governments of the Brussels-based relief organisation.

Mr. Fraser said it was premature to discuss any definite amount, the nature of assistance or any timeframe for the proposal to materialise. "It all depends on individual governments" to whom he will be making representations, he

said. The Canadian counterpart in the programme under discussion is CARE Canada. Mr. Fraser explained that he was seeking to supplement the programme with assistance from the national CARE organisations in various countries — notably Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Australia, Japan and others.

The CARE Canada programme involves offering supplementary food — dry rations — to 2,500 children in Jordan, according to Nabil Amshai, a spokesman for the Canadian embassy in Amman. He said QAF centres in various governorates will identify the most needy and administer the programme. He could not provide any figure for the cost of the programme and Mr. Fraser declined to discuss specifics in his interview with the Jordan Times.

The former prime minister said there was an increased awareness that Jordan was in need of urgent assistance to

help it cope with the massive flow of refugees and expressed hope that CARE International assistance will be forthcoming to the Kingdom.

However, he said, "relief funds are hard to come by these days," particularly because CARE had experienced massive assistance to cyclone-hit Bangladesh this year and to help refugees from Iran in Turkey and Iraq as well as in Iraq following the foiled Kurdish and Shiite rebellions in that country.

Australia, he said, "is a small country in terms of people and resources," and is doing what it could in terms of assistance to the needy around the world. Australia was focusing more on the countries near to it in the Far East in extending aid, he said.

Mr. Fraser, who arrived here from Iraq and left for Brussels Sunday, said he would like to "see a permanent CARE presence in Jordan," but added that it was only in idea and concept and that there had been decisions on

the issue.

The veteran Australian politician said his country was highly appreciative of "the constructive and positive role played by Jordan in Middle Eastern politics." He expressed hope that the ongoing Middle East peace process would bear fruit so that the countries in the region can live in peace and stability and give more attention to economic development and progress.

His Majesty King Hussein met with Mr. Fraser last week as the Australian labour leader was on his way to Iraq to review CARE programmes there.

Representatives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and several ministers also held talks with Mr. Fraser last week.

CARE International was set up originally after World War II as an American organisation — Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere — before becoming a world institution offering relief assistance to needy developing countries.

Germany donates vehicles to help Kingdom fight illicit trafficking

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday took delivery of three vehicles that came as a gift from Germany to help Jordanian police deal with contraband activities and forgeries.

A statement from the PSD said that Department Director Fadel Ali received from German ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers the three vehicles, which are specially equipped to help police combat drug trafficking and counterfeit activities.

The statement said that the German gift was made in support of PSD's continued endeavours to fight all forms of smuggling at the regional and international levels.

Maj. Gen. Ali expressed the Jordanian government's deep appreciation to Germany for this valuable gift. He said that cooperation between the two sides in this regard reflects the strong friendly ties between the German and Jordanian people.

Germany in 1988 supplied the PSD with specially equipped helicopters to help it control drug trafficking in the desert regions and the border areas.

Coinciding with the announcement, the Customs Department announced that its officers seized two kilograms of opium and



Public Security Department Director Fadel Ali meets with Heinrich Reimers, German ambassador to Jordan. The German government donated three vehicles to the PSD to help it fight trafficking in the country (Petra photo).

half a million captagon pills along with other illicit materials. A department spokesman was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that in the last two months customs officers at Ramtha border post near the Syrian-Jordanian border have seized the illicit merchandise hidden in secret compartments of cars entering Jordan.

He said that the following were seized in a number of cases: 15,400 drug pills, two kilos of

opium, 200 grammes of heroin, 110 grammes of hashish, 87 gold chains weighing 435 grammes, 910 grammes of gold dust, 1,388 grammes of gold, 705 wrist watches and half a million captagon pills.

Journalism symposium discusses manipulation of press during war and in occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international seminar on news coverage in war time being held at Amman Plaza Hotel discussed Sunday two working papers entitled "Lies in the Desert" and "Palestinian Journalists Under Occupation."

The first paper, submitted by two American participants, shed light on the manipulation of news and facts during the Gulf war and the Panama invasion on the part of the U.S. official information services.

In a letter addressed to the executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), Mr. Sourou said that the negative impact of the influx of returnees into Jordan are posing a genuine problem to the country and is placing pressures on the services needed to cater to the large number of returnees, including water, transportation and energy.

He said that preliminary estimates of capital investments in the housing sector, including costs of providing health services, transport, water and sanitation, amount to \$3.7 billion in addition to some \$4.5 billion needed to maintain the same standard of services for the next five years.

The minister's letter said that preliminary statistics show a 10 per cent increase in Jordan's population as a result of the Gulf crisis, in addition to a 3.5 per cent natural increase resulting from population growth.

The minister requested that his letter be circulated to member states of the UNCHS.

paper said each news report had to be censored by the military, which never allowed journalists to conduct individual investigations or reporting and insisted that journalists be moved in groups and be given specific information approved by the allied forces command.

The journalists sometimes complained about the way they were treated and the information given them but to no avail, the paper noted.

The paper focused attention on the fact that the attacking forces and the air raids in the Gulf war were directed at civilian positions in Iraq as the documents and the facts revealed after the war, but nothing of this kind was reported by the press and television net-

works during the war itself. Disclosures after the war showed that 70 per cent of the bombs dropped on Iraq had missed their military targets, the paper added.

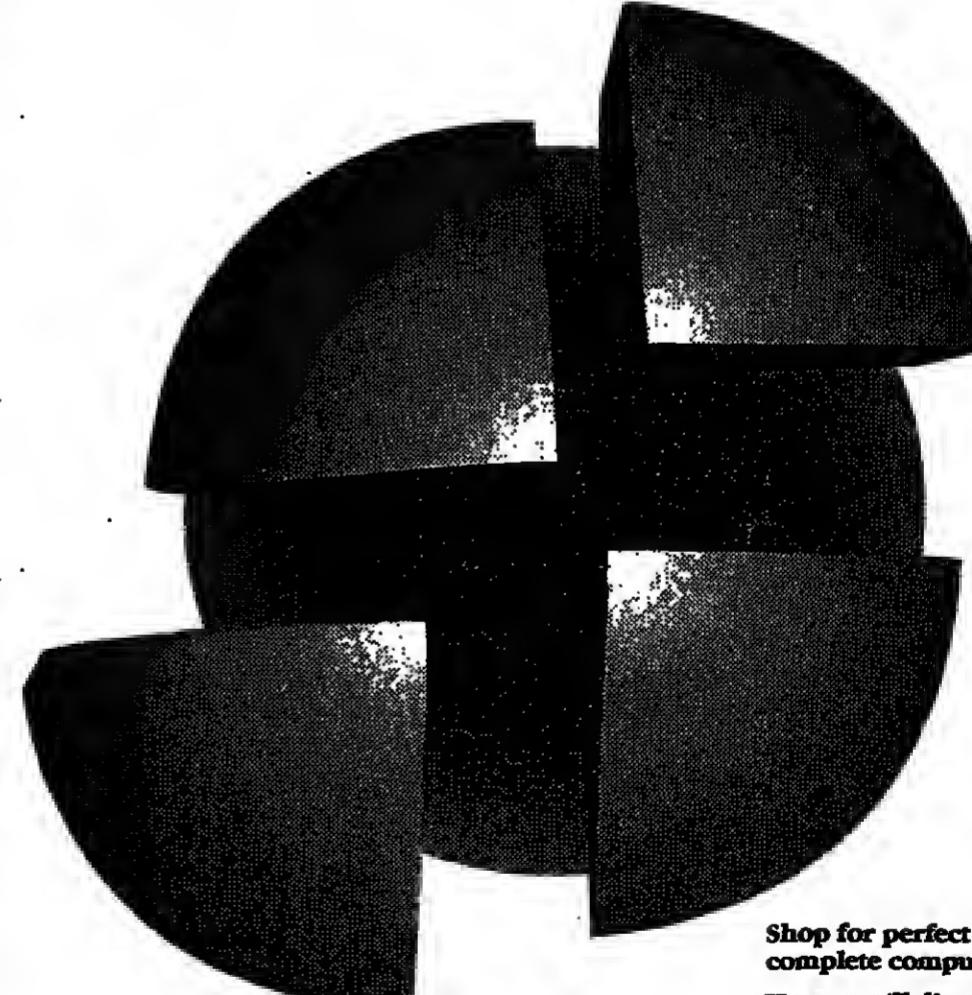
The other paper on the journalists work in the occupied Arab territories referred to the repressive measures and harassments to which the Palestinians as well as foreign journalists were subjected not only during the war but also during the intifada and throughout the occupation, which started in 1967.

The paper, prepared by the League of Arab Journalists in the Occupied Palestinian Land, said that strict military censorship continues in news coverage and foreign journalists are allowed to report very little about the facts.

The Palestinian newspapers have to submit all their features or news coverage or other reports to the military censor in order to get approval before anything can be published, the paper said. The military authorities normally impose heavy penalties on journalists, newspapers and magazines if they publish anything considered unacceptable.

It said the Israeli ban on the publication of Palestinian culture or other materials that can enhance the Palestinian people's steadfastness or advocate human rights causes. Most Palestinian journalists are exposed to interrogation and arrest when their reports are not in favour of the Israeli government's views.

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Health Ministry to hire additional doctors and staff for expanding hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry has spent more than JD 13 million on expanding and enlarging hospitals in Salt, Mafraq, Tafith and Amman and has made special allocations in the 1992 fiscal year to employ an additional 1,003 doctors and health workers to cope with the services resulting from such expansion, according to Dr. Mustafa Al Barmawi, director of Hospital Affairs at the Health Ministry.

The enlarged facilities are Al Hussein Hospital in Salt, the government hospital in Mafraq, Al Baker Hospital in Amman and the Tafith government hospital, Dr. Barmawi said.

He said that the enlargements, which have been completed, cost JD 8.35 million and the ministry is in the process of supplying them with equipment at the estimated cost of JD 5 million.

The enlargements have made it necessary to hire doctors, specialists, nurses, paramedics, midwives and other health workers.

Dr. Barmawi also announced a Health Ministry decision to start building the infrastructure of the new Karak Hospital which will be financed by the Italian Government at a later stage.

He said that the Health Ministry has plans to build hospitals in Russeifa and Deir Abu Said in 1992.

Aqaba tourist season begins with first planeload from Scandinavia

AQABA (J.T.) — The winter tourist season has started in Aqaba with the arrival at the winter resort Sunday of 100 Finnish and other Scandinavian tourists on board a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft.

The group, who arrived in Aqaba via a direct flight from Helsinki for a weekend stay to visit tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan, is the first such group to arrive in the country after the Gulf war.

George Bawab, the director of the Near East Tourist Agency (NET) — which organised the trip — said tourist groups will be arriving in Aqaba from Helsinki twice a week starting next month.

He attributed the revival of the Scandinavian tourist group programme to a visit to Finland last June by Her Majesty Queen Noor and the ongoing efforts exerted by the Tourism Ministry in cooperation with private sector offices in Jordan.

Earlier this month, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kababri revealed at a meeting with tourist offices that his ministry was launching a wide scale campaign to promote Jordan and is enlisting the assistance of local and foreign tour operators to ensure its success.

The campaign will be mainly directed in Europe with par-

ACADEMIC WELCOME — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Sunday had an open meeting with university students and discussed their issues of concern to them and answered some of their queries. Dr. Gharaibeh stressed the importance of abiding by regulations and restrictions and called on the students to be one team while at the university. Dr. Charalabek, who was appointed university president recently, urged students to conduct constructive dialogue in a democratic atmosphere that allows the exchange of ideas.

The university's administration, he said, is currently considering several changes in the registration process to ease the students' suffering at the beginning of each term. In another development in Karak, Mafraq University President Awad Khaled met Sunday with newly admitted students at the university. Dr. Khaled briefed the students on the establishment and the development of the university. He said the university is planning to expand in the near future and will start implementing the second stage of the university project soon.

CORRECTION

Because of a reporting error, o Jordan Times article on Sunday about local Arab-American Anti-Discrimination activities incorrectly stated that the children's march would take place on Oct. 13. The actual day of the march is

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Charles Foster-Hall at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Marwan Al 'Allan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hossain Jundi (copper engraving) and Sabah Al Yasiri (ceramics) at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jassineh Abed AlFattal at Yarmouk University.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Le Magique" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

HASHIMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN POTASH PRODUCTION EXPANSION

CORRECTION

The Jordan Times Sunday published an advertisement for the Potash Production Expansion Project, No. 30-4857 (APC-25-90), giving inaccurate fax numbers for the project's site and the Amman H.Q.

The correct fax numbers are: 962-3-377125 - 962-3-674418. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

Jordan Times

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The people's choice

THE TALK about an imminent cabinet reshuffle has picked up momentum as the date for convening a peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict fast approaches. The Palestine National Council's (PNC) affirmative response to the impending peace talks has also accelerated the peace process and made it inevitable that all the parties to the prospective negotiations get into the right gear for the historic change. After a long and sometimes acrimonious debate, the Palestinian house is back in order now and should be ready and able to participate effectively in the U.S.-led efforts for peace. It is only natural therefore that Jordan also undergo some change, like a reshuffle in the cabinet, in order to give the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri a clearer perception and a stronger mandate on how to proceed when the time comes for negotiating peace on behalf of the country. All the current cabinet ministers whether from the Arab nationalist groups or the Arab National Democratic Alliance or others who feel that the proposed peace party runs counter to their beliefs or interests have every right to express their views and to do what their conscience dictates to them. No one expected that our country will be totally monolithic on such a momentous occasion as indeed none of the other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict is fully behind the decision to give peace in the region a chance. But as some of us in this part of the world have democratic rights so must a national verdict on fundamental policy issues be taken by democratic means.

The greater majority of Jordanians, especially the silent ones, are openly in favour of waging peace under unique circumstances that promise an active American involvement in the quest for a durable and just peace and stability in the Middle East. Never had the Palestinian conflict or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict enjoyed such an American official support to the peace initiative as is the case now. Granted that the ultimate purposes and intents of President George Bush and his administration can never be completely assessed with precision at this point in time. Nevertheless the parties to the projected peace negotiations have enough positive signals to go on given the unprecedented bold and courageous posture of the American president on the issue of regional peace.

Jordan needs and is entitled to have a strong and united government that has the strength of its convictions. In many ways, such a cabinet would be a government of extraordinary times bordering on a national salvation government. In the final analysis any peace treaty that may emerge from the anticipated peace negotiations between Jordan and Israel should be submitted to the two houses of Parliament for scrutiny and approval or rejection as the representatives of the people would deem proper. But as the negotiating process is expected to be a long and drawn out exercise, the people of Jordan would have by the end of such negotiations another occasion to elect their new representatives to the new parliament on the basis of the ensuing national debate over the issue of peace in the area and others. The people of Jordan deserve a chance to make their voice heard on this matter when the time arrives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily discussed Israel's reaction to the Palestine National Council's approval of the U.S.-sponsored peace process and said that the Israeli government's cool response came as no surprise to any one. The Israelis have been hoping that the Palestinians will not accept the U.S. plan and have been declaring publicly that no PLO representatives would be allowed to participate in the peace process, the paper noted. But, it said, the Palestinian response disappointed the Israelis who had hoped that a "no" answer would save them the trouble of having to negotiate with the Arabs over the occupied territories and the question of permanent peace. The Israelis have also been launching propaganda campaigns against Jordanian-Palestinian joint action, trying to draw a wedge between the two sides in the hope that the Palestinians would eventually reject Jordan's efforts for a joint umbrella for the peace negotiations, the paper noted. It said that again the Israelis are disappointed since nothing of this kind is going to happen simply because Jordan has repeatedly announced that the Palestinians would have to deal with their own issues with the Israelis once the conference got under way. Jordan, said the paper, will continue to offer support for the Palestinian people, to help them regain their rights, and will continue to play a very positive role to help the establishment of peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Telecommunications Corporation's public telephone services and said that the number 121, which is supposed to answer calls by members of the public seeking a telephone number, never satisfies the callers. People turn to number 121 at the central telephone exchange installed by the corporation in order to find out telephone numbers of people and organisations which are not listed in the 1987 telephone directory, said Nazir. The writer said that since 1987 many changes were introduced to telephone lines and new telephones were installed and therefore it is impossible to find telephone numbers in the 1987 telephone books. He said that 121 is supposed to offer the service to the public efficiently and promptly; otherwise new phone books should be issued with all the numbers. The writer said that the Telecommunications Corporation which usually quick to disconnect telephone lines when subscribers delay payment of their bills, also has a duty to maintain its services to the subscribers and the public in general. He suggested that the corporation increase the number of employees because obviously those in charge of the service are insufficient; else it must cancel this service to the public altogether after openly declaring its failure to cope with this task.

Weekly Political Pulse

Palestinians gamble on peace

THE middle course adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at its milestone Algiers conference shows beyond a shadow of doubt that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has come of age at last. As the old saying goes, once bitten, twice shy, the Palestinians have been repeatedly bitten in the past, notably on the occasion of the United Nations partition plan for Palestine. Now they decided to be shy and stay aloof from abstract objectives that brought them one disaster after the other. By "conditionally" accepting to take part in the impending peace conference on the Middle East, the PLO has in effect signalled their asset to play ball under the prevailing imperfect conditions. This Palestinian position is no different from the positions of the other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts, especially Israel, which is still insisting on receiving a memorandum of understanding before responding to the expected invitation to attend the peace talks. In fact, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is counting on "letter of assurance" from Washington before he would bother to nod approvingly to the conference idea. If this is not a conditional acceptance, one does not know what is.

This new Palestinian perception about the peace prospects has obviously emerged not only from a sophisticated realisation and appreciation of the new regional and international developments but also from their bitter experience about lost opportunities. The Palestinian counterview, opposing the "moderate" concessions in

favour of the peace process, appears to be espoused by political dimwits that belong to a bygone era. By clinging to the notion that military struggle against Israel is still a viable option, the so-called extremist forces within the Palestinian ranks exemplify a fossilised perception that could not withstand the test of time in the past and is less likely to do so in the future, given the rise of a new international order from the ashes of the old international political structure.

What remains to be seen is whether and how Tel Aviv would respond to this new Palestinian thinking and perspective. The odds are that Israel would not react in-kind to the new Palestinian orientation and most probably would do everything under the sun to sabotage or derail it. The Zionist strategy had always counted on a set of factors among which is a continued Palestinian rejection of taking Israel to task and putting its true intentions to test under international scrutiny and surveillance.

This time around, the PLO has demonstrated quite clearly that it has learnt from past errors of judgment and has decided to call Israel's bluff once and for all. Maybe the Palestinians would emerge victorious from the peace conference and perhaps they would not attain their minimum national aspirations, but they would at least expose Israel to the maximum and lay to rest all false protestations that it was the Palestinians who prevented the

achievement of durable and just peace all along. How the PLO can cash in on such a political triumph is something else. Washington and the rest of the major capitals may still not be able to deliver on their repeated pledge to attain honourable peace terms for the Palestinians if they only join the peace process. Israel's hold on the decision-making process in most of the countries that help shape the course of the so-called new order is so strong that they might not be able to liberate themselves enough to come to the Palestinian rescue in spite of heavy Palestinian investment in the peace process.

Still in the long term the Palestinians would come out ahead by first showing their own people and the peoples of the other Arab countries that they have acted in good faith and have left no stone unturned in order to gain permanent peace with justice. Winning the public opinion battle would revitalise the Palestinians with stronger than ever determination to pursue their legitimate goals. The other Arab peoples' sympathy and solidarity would also grow stronger and more effective than ever in the wake of the failed Palestinian efforts to sue for peace for themselves and the other peoples of the region. Internationally, the peoples and governments of the world would likewise rise to the new challenges brought about by the Israeli stubbornness and defiance of all reasonable peace overtures from the Palestinian and other Arab sides.

By Waleed Saad

Poll: Most Soviets want Jews out

MOSCOW — More than half the Soviet people want all Jews to leave the country, according to a poll released this week at the first international conference on anti-Semitism ever held in the Soviet Union.

More than ten per cent of those polled said all Jews should be moved to the Far East, and more than half believe the fight against Zionism should be strengthened.

The two-day conference was organised as a parallel activity of the month-long meeting of the 38-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which monitors compliance with the Helsinki accords on human rights.

The poll backs up a conclusion of more than a dozen speakers at the conference — anti-Semitism is becoming rampant as the country moves from communism to democracy.

"It's not the totalitarian anti-Semitism which we're used to and which was hypocritical. Now, it is open anti-Semitism," said Dr. Michael Chlenov, co-president of the Va'ad, the confederation of Soviet Jewish organisations and communities which sponsored the conference.

"Like Nazism, this open anti-Semitism is spreading around the Russian Federation in large cities, though, in other republics we see the totalitarian anti-Semitism which we know very well," he said.

Vladimir Shapiro, a professor at the Institute of Sociology in Moscow and head of the Jewish Scientific Centre which co-ordinated the poll, said the results indicate that anti-Semitism has reached "a very alarming" level.

He said 4,200 people were surveyed in 10 Soviet cities last October. It included about 25 Jews.

Mark Krasnoselsky, who coordinates the monitoring of anti-Semitism in the Soviet media, said attacks have increased, with between 50 and 70 publications in Moscow alone preaching hatred

of Jews.

A neo-Nazi movement "which wants to drive out all the Jews" is emerging in the Soviet Union.

Unlike other European states,

there are no laws banning such organisations, he said.

All this has brought about a situation which endangers the life of Jews," Mr. Krasnoselsky said.

"Many have been forced to leave by this hatred."

Mr. Shapiro said two smaller polls show a Jewish community fearing a new wave of pogroms.

Some 39 per cent of the Jewish leaders polled in January thought pogroms were possible in the near future, compared with 48 per cent in December 1989. And 31 per cent of Moscow Jews polled in June and July foresaw the possibility of a pogrom by the year's end.

"The extreme Russian right blames the Jews for bringing about communism, and the old communist left blames the Jews for bringing about the downfall of communism."

In the poll of 4,200 mainly non-Jews, only 14 per cent expected pogroms.

"We are seeing reminders of what happened in fascist Germany," said Yuri Sokol, speaking on behalf of Soviet Jewish veterans and victims of ghettos and concentration camps. "The next step is pogroms."

He said Jews are being blamed for everything, including the country's serious economic problems and widespread food shortages.

Irwin Cotler, a Canadian Jew-

ish leader and law professor at McGill University, added: "The extreme Russian right blames the Jews for bringing about communism, and the old communist left blames the Jews for bringing about the downfall of communism."

Many non-Jews believe the departure of the Jews will give them a better life, Mr. Shapiro said.

Even though thousands of Soviet Jews are emigrating, fighting anti-Semitism is important for the thousands remaining behind in the big cities and the Muslim-dominated Central Asian republics, which are quickly becoming independent, said Soviet attorney David Akselbart.

Mark Batumsky, a Soviet Islamic expert, said the Central Asian republics will soon choose between Turkish-style democratic government and Iranian-style fundamentalism, and he urged Western nations to take an active interest in the outcome.

Arab countries are attempting to become their patrons, and this could worsen the already difficult position of Jews living in those republics, he said.

Officials in the predominantly Muslim republic of Azerbaijan have denied accusations that they recently reinstated restrictions on Jews seeking to emigrate. "We do not intend to hinder them or other nationalities from going abroad," Azerbaijani spokesman Manaf Agayev told the TASS news agency.

Some 200 academics, scholars and leaders of Jewish organisations from all over the world are attending the conference, the first of its kind in the Soviet Union.

Debra Lipstadt, an author and professor of Jewish history at Occidental College in California, called it historic.

"For Israel to participate shows how far we have come in the last three or four years," added Myrna Shiobaum, director of Soviet and East European affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, (AP)

Baltic independence revives Polish-Lithuanian tension

By Alister Doyle
Reuter

SALCININKAI — Centuries-old tensions between Lithuanians and Poles, hidden during five decades of Soviet rule, have stirred again since the Baltic republic won back its independence this month.

People in Polish-dominated towns like Salcinkai, where a two-metre high statue of Lenin still stands on the main street, fear loss of Moscow's protection could make them second-class citizens in the new nation.

Polish President Lech Walesa wrote to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis this month expressing concern about the treatment of Poles. Mr. Landsbergis this week accused Polish media of mounting "a strange propaganda campaign" against Lithuania.

"We're afraid for the future," said Jan Szamel, a 35-year-old Polish resident of Salcinkai, a town of 5,000 which was part of Poland between the two world wars but was swallowed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

"Dorogie the independence campaign, we heard slogans like 'Lithuania for the Lithuanians,' so we understand we are not needed here," he said.

The Lithuanian government has disbanded the Polish-dominated councils in Salcinkai and the district around the capital Vilnius, accusing them of working with hardline communists in Moscow.

It also dissolved a Russian council in similar charges of publicly supporting last month's coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"This isn't a conflict between Lithuanians and Poles. This is between Lithuanians and communists," he said.

The two countries fought a brief war in 1920 over their rival claims to the city of Vilnius.

Lithuania and Poland have a long history of conflict, although the two were united as a single kingdom for hundreds of years from 1387. At that time they formed the biggest country in Europe.

The two countries fought a brief war in 1920 over their rival claims to the city of Vilnius.

Foreign nations, including the United States, have called on the Baltic nations to respect human rights of minorities as they move towards democracy and market economy.

"We want to have Polish leaders, not Lithuanian ones. Lithuanians are the leaders everywhere now," said Tadeusz Stasiuk, 27, a Polish resident.

After Lithuania declared independence, he said, the Polish councils continued to operate under Soviet law, took part in a Soviet referendum banned by Lithuania and backed the August coup attempt.

Despite political problems, many residents of Salcinkai, Lithuania's poorest region, expressed greater concern about shortages.

"We went to the shop to buy bread, but there was none," said Jana Stalciene, 57, a Lithuanian woman married to a Pole.

"Socialism didn't work so we'll try capitalism instead."

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NC contributed positively'

(Continued from page 1)

source the full composition of Palestinian delegation. But it stated that the PLO has a right to choose Palestinian representatives to the talks.

Jordan has said it was willing to be in the joint delegation, if the US accepted. But it has stressed that Jordanians will not speak behalf of Palestinians.

US Secretary of State James Baker welcomed the Palestinian delegation but said he was still ready to issue invitations to the meeting.

"We still have some things that must have to be done in order to be assured that all of the parties are really ready to come to the table," he told reporters today.

"Any time we see support for the prospect of trying to create a peace process in the Middle East, we're very glad to see that," said Baker, in New York for a series of meetings around the agenda of the UN General Assembly.

He said Palestinians, particularly those living in the Israeli-occupied territories, had the most gain from a viable peace process and the most to lose if there is not one.

Mr. Baker, who has seen key Middle Eastern officials in New York this week, may return to the city soon.

State Department officials said there were no plans yet to meet Palestinian leaders in Washington.

N. teams report Iraqi compliance

(Continued from page 1)

Saturday evening and Mr. Kay said all those documents had now been flown out of the country.

He said the documents gave irrefutable new evidence of Iraq's movement overseas of nuclear materials and knowledge and an extensive view into "the actual weapons development side of the programme."

They consisted of 5,000 pages of records, 19 hours of videotapes and 3,000 photographs.

The Baghdad Observer said in its editorial on Sunday that Mr. Kay had "a far different goal than being informed of the technicalities of Iraqi nuclear installations."

It said he was the sole leader of

all the weapon inspection teams to have visited Iraq to encounter difficulties and pointed out that he was American.

"Hence one can link his strange row over making an inventory of the documents he wanted to seize to the US anti-Iraq policy which centres on interfering in the internal affairs and undermining the legitimate government," it added.

The ruling Baath party newspaper Al Thawra carried a report Sunday quoting an unnamed diplomatic source in New York as saying one member of the nuclear inspection group was a double agent for the CIA and Mossad.

It said the man, which it named as Nino David, was an Israeli.

hamir hints at 'compromise,' but no freeze in settlements

(Continued from page 1)

"I have many doubts if it'll be able to fulfill this task because of its recent behaviour. There is no better candidate." Mr. Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker want to capitalise on the Gulf war shake-up in the Middle East and waning leftist influence to try to end the year-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

Apparently undaunted by Israel's powerful US lobby, Mr. Bush has threatened to use Washington's immense financial muscle over the Jewish state.

U.S. officials have linked the sending of \$10 billion in loan guarantees to house an influx of Jewish refugees to a freeze on Jewish settlement in occupied land which Mr. Bush sees as a major obstacle to peace.

"The link between the economic and political is unfortunate," Mr. Ben-Aharon said. "It is not conducive either to (U.S.-Israel) relations or to the peace process."

"We hope we won't be facing any more American pressure... or demands that we can't accede to."

Mr. Ben-Aharon stopped short of saying the US had blown its role of honest broker "because so much depends on the feeling of both sides that in spite of these obstacles there is an inherent interest in achieving some results for the benefit of both sides and that sometimes supersedes even bargaining by outside factors."

He said Israel was still working with U.S. officials on the assumption that it would attend the peace conference but he was not sure what the talks would achieve.

"I would say that we are not very optimistic because of the trend that has taken place over the last few weeks," he said. "Arab expectations have unfortunately been fed by the outside world including the United States."

"It affects our attitude to the process because if we know that

Morocco harnesses the rains

next week, though such a meeting could not be ruled out.

The Hearst news service, in a report Saturday by foreign editor John Wallach, said Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbatchev have tentative plans to launch the Middle East peace conference in the Hague in late October or early November.

Mr. Wallach said his source was a senior administration official who asked not to be identified. He quoted the official as saying no invitations to the meeting will be issued until Mr. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin visit the Middle East in coming weeks.

White House officials travelling with Mr. Bush on a weekend trip to Sea Island, Georgia, said they had no information about the report. But they said Mr. Bush was already scheduled to visit the Hague on Nov. 9 after a two-day North Atlantic Treaty Organisation meeting in Rome.

Mr. Baker said Israel and the Arabs still had not agreed to final terms for the conference.

"I am not going to make any predictions," Mr. Baker told reporters. "I think we still have things that have to be done in order to be assured that all of the parties are ready."

Mr. Baker said negotiations could produce some form of "self-rule" and, ultimately, a permanent settlement.

"You know," he said, "we've been saying for some time that we think that there is an opportunity here, an opportunity really for all."

In the countries of the Mediterranean's southern belt, especially northwest Africa, the environment has been severely affected by successive droughts at the beginning of the 1980s. But the return of the rains does not necessarily mean prosperity — on the contrary.

The soil of these semi-arid, often mountainous, regions deteriorates rapidly under the lash of sporadic and violent rainstorms, vegetation becomes scarce and agricultural activities including stock-breeding, become more and more precarious.

These factors have played an important role in the trend toward the depopulation of areas which are usually far from urban centres and lack means of communication and essential services.

It is against this perilous decline, the source of serious regional disparities, that Morocco has decided to act. This country has long experience in harnessing hydraulic resources and the big dams constructed earlier fully proved their usefulness during the 1980-84 drought. From 1984, it launched an ambitious programme of medium-sized dam construction covering the sub-Atlas geographical crescent from Oujda in the north to Ouazza in the south.

In building dams of various dimensions — some medium-sized structures ranging from 30 to 60 metre high, smaller ones from 10 to 30 metres — the initiators of the programme are trying to attain a variety of combined objectives such as protection against floods and a better utilisation of surface water for irrigation and other uses. One thousand million cubic metres of water can thus be salvaged to benefit irrigated areas of 15 to 800 hectares downstream from the dams.

The dams also help to replenish the underground water table, to increase the longevity of the big dams by combatting silting, to produce electricity locally and to help settle the rural population by raising its living standards. Materials available on the spot or nearby are used primarily in their construction: dams are made of earth, stone or cylindrical concrete. Their construction should also help reduce unemployment and underemployment by providing work and incomes to large numbers of the unemployed.

Various consultancy missions have made a thorough diagnosis of several construction sites and confirm the validity of the approach used, both in terms of the quality of construction and the level of employment and training of the workers. In 24 of the 25 construction sites which were analysed, expenditure on labour was by far the largest item in the budget, often reaching and sometimes even exceeding 50 per cent of the total. Labour productivity is proving very satisfactory, although the productivity of the supervisory and services personnel could be improved.

At the request of the Moroccan authorities, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently collaborated in an evaluation of the effectiveness of the methods and technologies used.

In searching ways to improve workforce management, and in producing a synthesis of the Moroccan experience with a view to possible applications in other countries.

The ILO has also helped to

create a computerised tool for the management of the construction sites. This system makes it possible to calculate productivity, to determine the required technological standards and to control the progress of the work as well as the costs. Shortfalls can be detected and corrected very rapidly.

In all, 46 medium-sized dams

had been built by the end of 1990, accompanied by numerous works upstream and downstream such as wells, tree plantations and boundaries.

The Moroccan experience has

proved positive on all points and has inspired similar operations in other Arab and African countries. A seminar organised in Rabat under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank has already contributed to the dissemination of Moroccan know-how in this field — ILO Information.



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Mansell keeps title hopes alive with Spanish Grand Prix win

BARCELONA (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell kept alive his hopes of winning the World Drivers' Championship when he won Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix and championship leader Ayrton Senna came home fifth.

Mansell, in Williams, finished the 65-lap race 11.331 seconds ahead of Alain Prost in a Ferrari.

Mansell's Williams team mate, Italian Riccardo Patrese, finished third ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in the second Ferrari. Senna in a McLaren, and German Michael Schumacher who came sixth for Benetton.

Mansell's win cut Senna's lead in the Drivers' Championship from 24 points to 16 with two races remaining — in Japan next month and Australia on Nov. 3.

The Briton's victory was the 21st of his career and came in his 163rd Grand Prix.

It was a win against the odds and in extraordinary circumstances on an overcast and often

wet day at the new circuit de Catalunya.

The race began in wet conditions and was incident-packed with all the drivers going into the pits for new tyres as they switched from their wet rubber to slicks.

The Williams team managed to avoid repeating their problems of the previous week in Estoril when Mansell was disqualified after a disastrous pit stop and appeared to lose his championship hopes.

Senna took over the lead in the 11th lap. He was passed by teammate Gerhard Berger the next lap and my Mansell the following lap as a brief rain fell and wet the track again.

Senna spun out on the 14th lap but recovered in less than five seconds to get back in the race, dropping to seventh.

He worked his way back up to third after Berger went out but was pushed down to fourth and fifth when Patrese and Alesi eventually passed him.

Alesi was given a penalty for incorrect behaviour at the start and was brought in and held up for 10 seconds by the marshals during the race. He went out and did the fastest lap of the race.

Senna won F-1 titles in 1988 and 1990 with McLaren-Honda in bitter rivalries with Alain Prost

of France, a three-time champion. Prost drove for McLaren until switching to Ferrari last year.

Last year, Prost won the Spanish Grand Prix when it was held at Jerez. It was his and Ferrari's last victory.



Nigel Mansell driving his Williams-Renault car

McEnroe beats Connors in Basle tennis semis

BASEL, Switzerland (R) — An eagerly-awaited semifinal between American veterans John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors proved a heavy disappointment at the Swiss Indoor Tennis Tournament Saturday.

Defending champion McEnroe ran away with the match, thrashing Connors 6-1, 6-3 to reach the final of the \$750,000 event, where he will play Swiss Jakob Hlasek.

Eight-seeded McEnroe, 32, needed just 78 minutes to finish off Connors who astonished the

tennis world by reaching the semifinals of the U.S. Open at the age of 39 last month.

Hlasek, seeded sixth, earned his final spot the hard way by having to fight through three tiebreaks to beat seventh seed Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union 7-6, 6-7, 7-6.

A 9,000-strong capacity crowd saw only flashes of vintage tennis as McEnroe dominated the match against Connors.

Connors failed to hold his service in the first set but broke McEnroe in the fifth game.

Pozzi upsets Krickstein to win Queensland Open

BRISBANE (R) — Unheralded Italian Gianluca Pozzi, ranked 136th in the world, upset third-seeded American Aaron Krickstein in the Queensland Open final to win his first ATP tournament Sunday.

The 26-year-old from Bari, who has no personal coach, no previous experience in a major final and had won only six matches on the professional circuit in 1991 before this tournament, beat the former top-10 player 6-3 7-6 in 98 minutes.

"Maybe now I have a chance to play Davis Cup," the left-hander said after his shock victory.

Pozzi said he was not nervous going into the final against the American, who is ranked 86 places ahead of him in the world.

"I had nothing to lose. I just tried to be as relaxed as possible," said Pozzi.

It was another nightmare ending to the Brisbane tournament for Krickstein, who was also runner-up last year, to competitor Brad Gilbert.

"I started really badly," said Krickstein, who had not previously lost a set in the tournament.

"I was missing shots and I got a little tentative. I didn't have much confidence."

Meanwhile, colourful American Andre Agassi is set to outshine world number one Stefan Edberg as the main attraction when he makes his Australian tennis debut starting Monday.

Edberg is top seed in the strongest field in the Australian Indoor Championships' 19-year history — a line-up slightly

weakened by last week's withdrawal of second seed and defending champion Boris Becker with a back injury.

But it is Agassi, the tennis rebel who won over the crowds at his Wimbledon debut this year, that the local fans want to see in his first Australian tournament.

Agassi, seeded four, has been drawn for a quarterfinal confrontation with the big-serving Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic, who is seeded fifth.

It was a dream draw for organisers of the \$1 million tournament which, providing there are no upsets, would also see emerging American David Wheaton against third-seeded compatriot Pete Sampras, Edberg playing eighth seed Michael Chang and American Derrick Rostagno against number two seed Ivan Lendl.

"I couldn't have asked for better," said tournament director Graham Lovett. "I don't think there has been a stronger quarterfinal field anywhere in the world this year and that includes Grand Slam events."

If Agassi wins through to the quarterfinals he will be playing the powerful Ivanisevic for the first time in a tournament.

Agassi is playing well and his stunning display in the recent U.S. Davis Cup semifinal victory over Germany, which included a straight sets win against Wimbledon champion Michael Stich, has picked him up after a first round U.S. Open loss.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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JAMES JACOBY (1933-1991)

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

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♦ A 5

♦ A 4

+ 10 5 3

EAST

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The bidding:

East South West North

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Dbl Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

One of the world's great players, James Jacoby of Richardson, Texas, died last month of cancer.

The son of the legendary Oswald Jacoby, Jim first represented the U.S. in the 1965 World Team Championship, losing narrowly to the Italian Blue Team. He was one of the original Dallas Aces and won several world team championships with that squad. His successes in national competition were too numerous to list here. On his father's death, Jim became the syndicated bridge columnist for NEA.

Wright makes most of Arsenal league debut

LONDON (R) — When Ian Wright joined English League champions Arsenal Monday, the big club atmosphere. I thought that would bring out the best in me."

His best friend in soccer is Arsenal midfielder David Rocastle and their partnership was clearly a promising one Saturday with Rocastle snapping up the opening goal.

A week before his transfer, Wright had hit the headlines for threatening to report Palace Chairman Ron Noades to a race relations board for remarks about coloured players.

Now, as far as the tabloid press is concerned, it is "the Wright stuff" on the field that makes the news.

He scored on his club debut against second division Leicester in a League Cup tie Wednesday — his place ensured by the absence of injured England striker Alan Smith.

Graham was doubly delighted Saturday when Wright celebrated his league debut for Arsenal at Southampton with a hat-trick.

Wright only made the team because Kevin Campbell was rested amid Arsenal's highly demanding schedule which resumes with the European Cup trip to Vienna next week when the new signing is ineligible.

Graham said after the 4-0 win over struggling Southampton: "You pay top money for top players. Wright looks sharp, his finishing was clinical."

The manager added: "It's exciting to be top scorers (in the division) and we're looking for even more."

The result left Arsenal to fourth place in the first division, nine points behind runaway leaders Manchester United who beat 2-1 at Tottenham Hotspur.

Wright, a Londoner discovered by Palace six years ago while playing non-league soccer, needed no convincing he had made the right move.

"I could easily have stayed at Palace — they offered me a good deal to stay," he said. "But I turned it down because I wanted to come to a big club and sample

United must have a chance of the championship. And if that's so, then we won't be far behind," he said despite his evident disappointment in defeat.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness was more amazed than saddened by the split personality shown by his team in their 1-1 home draw with Sheffield Wednesday.

"You saw our best and worst performance of the season in the same match. We did very well at first but from the first kick to the last in the second half, we never got going," he said.

The result left the Merseysiders in an unaccustomed ninth place but lifted Wednesday to third, two points behind Leeds and eight behind United.

United States midfielder John Harkes marked his first match at Anfield with Wednesday's second half equalizer.

"You saw our best and worst performance of the season in the same match. We did very well at first but from the first kick to the last in the second half, we never got going," he said.

Harkes started superbly by taking the lead with the goal from midfielder Harald Speed in the fourth minute. But VFB defender Michel Frontzeck equalised with a free kick eight minutes before the interval.

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Hamburg coach Gerd-Volker Schock was disappointed with the result. "One point is too little bearing in mind how much we had of the game," Schock said.

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Economy

Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 23-September 27, 1991)

AMMAN — As technical speculation dominated, the U.S. currency fluctuated within wide margins during the past week. Negative sentiment reflecting the dollar-mark yield differential continued to prevail, as the dollar ended the week an average of 1.02 per cent lower.

The bearish dollar sentiment that had started the previous Friday, after failure to breach resistance at 1.70 marks to the dollar, developed further Monday. Traders moved into the German currency early in the Far East market, but then shifted towards the Japanese currency in late Europe and early New York. Observers maintained that the perception was that the mark had risen enough while Japanese investors were expected to repatriate capital before the end of the first half of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. The U.S. currency thus closed at its lowest closing levels of the week against the yen at 132.74 yen, and against the pound sterling at 1.7435 dollars to the pound.

Tuesday the drop reversed sharply, ending a day of sharp fluctuations. Technically motivated players and speculators tried pushing the dollar through key support and resistance levels thus triggering stop-loss selling and buying. But the turning point was when corporate demand to buy cheap dollars, as the U.S. unit reached its low of 1.6625 marks, propelled the U.S. unit into an upward direction triggering a wave of stop-loss buying. The dollar closed at its highest closing levels against most major European currencies at 1.6872 marks and 1.7270 dollars to the pound.

Technical factors continued to dominate Wednesday, as the dollar probe resistance at 1.6850 marks, then support at 1.6770 marks, failing to decisively breach either. Observers maintained that failure to drop further was due to the existing short dollar-positions in the market. But despite a smaller than expected drop of 3.8 per cent in August's Durable Goods Orders in the U.S., when expectations had indicated a 5.4 per cent decline, the U.S. unit nevertheless closed lower.

The dollar rebounded Thursday, rallying to its highest closing level against the Japanese currency at 133.93 yen. Month-end commercial demand as well as fears of renewed tensions between the U.S.A. and Iraq provided some support to the dollar.

Despite quiet trading Friday ahead of the month-end, quarter-end and the Japanese fiscal half year-end, the dollar witnessed a sharp drop mainly against European currencies. Technically-driven traders had finally joined those focusing on the fundamentals and turned decisively negative towards the U.S. unit. The dollar was hurt by its drop through several support levels and by speculation that the U.S. President was about to announce large defence budget cuts. Fears were that the latter might weaken American economic activity on the one hand, and reduce federal borrowing on the other, hence causing downward pressure on dollar interest rates. The release of August's Personal Income and Personal Consumption Spending had little effect on the market. The former rose by 0.4 per cent while the latter rose by 0.1 per cent, in line with expectations.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

| Currency | 20/9/1991 | 27/9/1991 | Percent Change |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Sterling/Pound | 1.7310 | 1.7430 | 0.69 % |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.6844 | 1.6699 | -0.87 % |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4755 | 1.4530 | -1.55 % |
| French Franc | 5.7510 | 5.6890 | -1.09 % |
| Japanese Yen | 134.40 | 133.20 | -0.90 % |

* USD per STG

| Currency | Euro-Currency Interest Rates* | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | 1-Month (%) | 1-Year (%) | 1-Month (%) | 1-Year (%) |
| U.S. Dollar | 5.43 | 5.87 | 5.37 | 5.62 |
| Sterling Pound | 10.43 | 10.06 | 10.37 | 9.93 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.12 | 9.31 | 9.06 | 9.37 |
| Swiss Franc | 8.00 | 7.62 | 8.00 | 7.81 |
| French Franc | 9.12 | 9.37 | 9.25 | 9.43 |
| Japanese Yen | 6.96 | 6.09 | 6.75 | 6.00 |

*Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

| Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| Currency | Bid | Offer |
| U.S. Dollar | .5860 | .6880 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1951 | 1.2011 |
| Deutsche Mark | .4105 | .4126 |
| Swiss Franc | .4720 | .4744 |
| French Franc | .1205 | .1211 |
| Japanese Yen | .5151 | .5177 |
| Dutch Guilder | .3642 | .3660 |
| Swedish Krona | .1116 | .1122 |
| Italian Lira* | .0549 | .0552 |
| Belgian Franc | .01993 | .02003 |

*Per 100

Economists and bankers outline views on dinar value and future strength

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Economic analysts and bankers are unanimous in dismissing suggestions that the Jordanian dinar could decline in value against foreign currency in the short term. If anything, they say, the dinar could gain in value as the economic restructuring programme is consolidated and absorbed fully into the Kingdom's fiscal policies and the Middle East peace process continues on track.

Either way, banking executives are advising against any boarding of currency, whether the Jordanian dinar or any foreign currency, in anticipation of any dramatic fluctuation.

"As far as I could see, Jordan has the ability to sustain the present stability of the dinar for a long time to come," said Abdullah Malki, president of the Association of Banks in Jordan.

It is an opinion widely shared by senior executives at Jordanian commercial banks as well as economic experts closely familiar with the Kingdom's economic policies.

"I cannot see any probability of the dinar declining in value in the near future," said Fakhri Bilbeisi, regional manager of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International which is undergoing a process of being converted into a totally Jordanian bank.

"The foreign reserves of Jordan are pretty high," Mr. Bilbeisi noted. "Indications are that the flow of foreign exchange will continue at a minimum level conducive to helping

the Kingdom's monetary authorities to sustain the value of the dinar even if Amman had to meet its foreign obligations," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Bankers recalled that the authorities had recently relaxed the ceiling on resident foreign currency accounts and said that this was another sign of official confidence in Jordan's economic performance.

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, another major factor which will determine the strength of the dinar is the political situation. "The confidence in Jordan's economic stability will grow along with the progress of the Middle East peace process, and, to a certain extent, this will boost the value of the Jordanian currency," he said.

Dr. Fahd Fanek, a noted Jordanian economic analyst, also ruled out any decline in the value of the dinar in the short term. "The Central Bank's reserves are high, and there is foreign exchange being brought into the country by refugees" from Kuwait and other Gulf states, he pointed out.

The political process leading to Arab-Israeli peace talks in October, said a senior manager at an international bank in Jordan, "if properly handled, will have a highly beneficial effect on the Jordanian economy and its currency."

"All present signs are that the peace process is on track, and if the international community treats Jordan fairly in terms of economic approach and assistance, then there is no doubt that the dinar will stabilise further," added the executive, who preferred anonymity. "And this stability will reflect itself in the form of an increase in the value of the dinar against all foreign currencies."

dinar's value.

"I foresee that there will be a continued inflow of foreign currency in the form of assistance, particularly from non-Arab countries," said Dr. Malki. "In addition there will also be a lot of unrecorded flow of foreign currency into the country," he added.

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Banking experts noted that there was very little difference in the official local rates for the dollar set on a daily basis by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the value that the greenback fetches on the black market.

The discernible difference in the official and unofficial markets has remained at less than one per cent since July, they noted.

The CBJ rate for the dollar Sunday was 686/688 fils, down from 692/695 fils two weeks ago. According to bankers the decline in the rate set by the CBJ does not really reflect the loss of value of the dollar in the last two weeks. But they explained that since the Jordanian dinar's exchange value is based on a currency of baskets, including the dollar and several European currencies, the fluctuations in the

rate of the dollar will not be fully seen reflected against the dinar.

If the dollar loses a little against the mark, for instance, the decline will not be seen fully in the local rates since the loss and gain are within the basket of currencies," Dr. Fanek explained.

The dollar was changing hands in the unofficial market Sunday for 688/692 fils and some dealers said the rate might go down further. At the peak of Jordan's economic crisis two years ago, the difference between the official and unofficial rates was as much as 20 per cent.

"There is an abundance of the dollar in the market and that accounts for the insignificant difference in the two rates," said a banking executive. "There is

a feeling that this abundance may not last long, but, by and large, it is my belief that there will be a minimum amount available in the parallel market always sufficient enough not to bring any significant pressure on the commercial banks."

According to officials, commercial banks are managing themselves well to meet the foreign currency needs of their clients and call on Central Bank for help very rarely.

In any event, noted a banker, "the Central Bank remains in a very strong position to intervene in the market wherever it finds it necessary to provide foreign currency. This has given a lot of confidence not only to Jordanian bankers but also to business men."

Moscow prints money at maximum capacity to avoid social explosion

nicre reform.

"This would be a nightmare," he said.

The number of roubles boarded by citizens increased 40 per cent from 132 billion at the beginning of 1991 to 186 billion by Sept. 1.

The best way to reduce import roubles, Mr. Abalkin said, is to sell "alternative goods" — land, homes and shares in businesses.

Meanwhile, the United States and its allies are feverishly working behind the scenes on ways to help the Soviet Union avoid defaulting on its \$70 billion in foreign debt.

"It's being worked on," said a senior U.S. official, who declined to be named. "They know and we know they have a problem."

Once considered among the most creditworthy of borrowers, the Soviet Union is finding it increasingly difficult to keep up to date on its debt payments as its economy collapses, oil output slides and import needs, especially for food, grow.

The intensive discussions among major industrial nations on the Soviet Union's debt difficulties demonstrates the Group of Seven's (G-7) growing interest in the country's economic plight.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has called for an early meeting of economic policy-makers from the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — devoted exclusively to a discussion about the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials said that meeting could be held in Washington this week.

Mr. Brady is also pressing for Soviet representatives to attend the G-7's next formally scheduled

meeting, in Bangkok around Oct. 12, before the annual meeting there of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Moscow has agreed to attend and U.S. officials said "there is no strong disagreement" within the G-7 to that proposal.

A senior U.S. official said Moscow was trying to calculate how much money it might need over the next four to five months to pay for essential imports and keep up with debt payments. He agreed that the financing gap might be around \$2 billion to \$5 billion.

The amount will depend in part on how quickly the Soviet Union's imports contract as its economy shrinks and on whether commercial banks will agree to keep trade credit lines in place.

U.S. officials were cautious about the help the United States and the G-7 might offer, but they ruled out a debt rescheduling.

"We don't think it's the answer and neither do the Soviets," the senior U.S. official said.

Even the increasingly independent Soviet republics recognise the dangers of a debt default that would shut the country completely out of credit markets in the future.

"They aren't walking away from the debt," the senior U.S. official said. "They'll stand behind it."

Some German bankers have called on the G-7 to guarantee commercial bank loans to the Soviet Union or provide it with a bridging credit to help it through the credit crunch.

But there appears to be little

interest in the United States in providing the Soviet Union with any big line of credit.

Washington normally extends bridging loans only to a country that has already reached agreement with the IMF on an economic reform plan and is just awaiting formal approval of a fund loan.

The Soviet Union is not even a member of the IMF yet.

While the United States would not prevent Moscow joining the IMF, U.S. officials believe that membership talks could take time as France, Germany and some other nations would have to give up voting rights to make way for the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials expect Moscow to become a special associate of the IMF within days. That would give it access to the fund's expertise in drawing up reform plans, although not to IMF money.

Both the fund and the World Bank are expected to open offices in Moscow within the next two months.

While urging large enterprises to put profits first and become responsible for their own losses, the meeting emphasised the pre-emptive role of Marxist ideology.

State enterprises are "important pillars of the national economy and the main source of state revenue," the New China News Agency said in its report on the conference.

"They have made and will continue to make tremendous contributions to the country's economic development and modernisation drive. Further raising their efficiency will play a decisive role.

Western diplomats said they believed China's constant power struggles were now centred on the economy with liberals arguing for drastic measures against the state industries that are draining national coffers.

The debate has been given added intensity since the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union that has left China's hardline leaders more nervous than ever about tinkering with their Marxist systems.

The working meeting is expected to pave the way for a Communist Party plenum to be convened soon.

China to continue backing state firms despite their losses

BEIJING (R) — China's communist leaders have stressed there should be no change in a policy of supporting loss-making state industries, an important test of their degrees of commitment to economic reform.

A five-day working conference, which was attended by virtually all senior leaders except paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, discussed mainly how to rescue state industries that are sinking under a sea of debt.

There was no indication the Communist Party would allow them to be swept away by reforms that have transformed other areas of the economy.

A policy of pumping money into state industries to pull the economy out of the doldrums has been responsible for a vicious cycle of inflation.

More fighting rages in Croatia despite efforts to reinforce truce

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — More fighting raged in breakaway Croatia Sunday despite efforts to strengthen a shaky ceasefire that brought Yugoslavia a week of relative calm.

Croatian Radio said the Croatian-held town of Nova Gradiska, on the main Belgrade-Zagreb motorway in the centre of the breakaway republic, was attacked with mortars and barrages from multiple rocket launchers.

The fighting followed fierce clashes Saturday around Pakrac, a Croatian stronghold near Nova Gradiska, and heavy shelling of the eastern Croatian town of Osijek, where the office of the mayor was set on fire.

The radio said four civilians were killed and 22 people including 12 Croatian National Guardsmen were wounded in the Pakrac area Saturday.

Croatian forces launched an offensive Saturday evening in the Zadar peninsula on the Adriatic coast after a village near the town of Benkovac came under mortar fire, the radio said.

Tanjug News Agency reported fierce artillery duels and fighting Sunday near Sibenik, another Adriatic port further south.

The fighting near the coast followed a Tanjug report Saturday that the army was ready for an agreement to pullout of barracks in Zadar and Sibenik besieged by Croatian forces.

But the agency said Sunday that Croatian representatives in Zadar never turned up to negotiate the expected pullout.

Army withdrawals last week from two besieged barracks, in Sinj, near the coast and at Vinkovci in eastern Croatia, raised hopes for a limited disengagement of forces.

But as new fighting erupted the army accused Croatia Saturday of violating the ceasefire by continuing to blockade and attack military bases.

"Units, commands and institutions



Two Yugoslav sisters with children and luggage, walk away from Osijek to the Hungarian border.

in the area of the fifth military district (which includes most of Croatia) are still under blockade and attacks on military facilities also continue," Tanjug quoted an army statement as saying Saturday.

It said Croatian forces were violating a truce agreed last Sunday by Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

"The sources and routes of regular supply, medical care and evacuation are blocked," the army said.

The fresh round of fighting forced the International Red Cross to suspend operations in Croatia until it received guarantees of safety from the warring sides.

Three Red Cross workers were injured in Croatia Friday when their vehicle was hit by bullets and crashed into a ditch.

According to Croatian figures, more than 1,000 people have been killed in the fighting since Croatia declared independence on June 25 and its 600,000-strong Serbian minority armed to fight it.

Simon Smits, head of a European Community (EC) monitoring team in Croatia, said uncontrolled forces were responsible for the fighting in central Croatia.

Mr. Smits said EC monitors wanted to visit Pakrac Saturday but did not receive safety guarantees.

"The problem is there are forces on the Croatian side and the Serbian (rebel) side that are

not fully under the control of those who signed the (ceasefire) agreement," he told reporters in Zagreb.

He described Friday's attack on a Red Cross convoy as "madness."

Francois Rohandy, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Zagreb, said a nurse and two male Red Cross workers, all Swiss nationals, suffered cuts and bruises after their vehicle was attacked.

They were with a convoy of seven buses travelling to Pakrac to rescue 270 people, mostly psychiatric patients, trapped for three days in the basement of a hospital hit by artillery fire.

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